

A Woman's Past

By GEORGE MUNSON

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The boy looked at the beautiful woman upon the sofa before him, seated resplendent in her evening gown, and his heart swelled with elation. It was the great moment in a boy's life; Charles Ames had won the love of Della Gray.

And that he was twenty-four and she thirty did not move him from his resolution to hold to her promised word and never let her go.

The pursuit had been a long one. At first she had laughed at him, she had striven hard in the net, but at twenty-four she was the resolute ardor of youth; and at last she knew that there was no way of escape for her. She loved as she had never loved in all her checkered life before.

She promised to be his wife, and knew at the same time that the dream was impossible. What would Hardwick Ames say when he learned that his mission was to become the property of an adventuress?

"Till death!" said the boy as he kissed her at parting, in the way boys speak.

Della Gray was not surprised to receive a visit from the millionaire the following afternoon. It was only half a mile from his mansion across the park to her flat, though a whole world separated them.

Della was pleasantly surprised at the appearance of her visitor. She had pictured Hardwick Ames as a different sort of man, not the polished gentleman who stood before her.

"Won't you sit down, Mr. Ames?" she asked nervously.

He took his seat near her, and studied her intently. "How old are you, Miss Gray?" he asked abruptly.

"Thirty," she answered, feeling that in the coming battle of wits lies were handicaps.

"And my son has known you?"

"Two months," she twined her slim fingers nervously. "I refused him many times."

"Yes. You do not work, I believe?"

"I have a small competence."

"From your late husband?"

"Yes," she answered defiantly. "I took my maiden name again. Many divorced women do that."

"And Charles—my son—knows all this, of course? I see he does. And that you were not the injured party?"

"Yes, he knows everything," she cried. "Have you men, you immaculate men of the world, no understanding of what life may sometimes do

—if women ever do acknowledge pity. You will realize that the great factor of successful life is compromise. I will give you a hundred thousand dollars to give up my son for ever and leave town tonight."

The blood rushed into Della's cheeks. For all his smooth words, then, he had mistaken her for a common adventuress for money, her who had never sought anything but love, and had always failed to find it.

At that moment she heard a light step in the hall without. It was so light that the millionaire, who was absorbed in thinking his name to the check which he had already withdrawn from his pocket, failed to detect it. The woman's heart leaped up. It was Charles—her lover—whom she loved better than all the world. A surge of anger swept over her.

But the father's words had sunk in deep. She had indeed often thought of what the future might bring to them. She had begun to realize that love may not be captured, that he is elusive to those who seek him and only comes to those whose lives are set in other molds than hers.

A few years with Charles, and, as the father had said, the end would come. At thirty-five he would be in the prime of life; she, at forty-one, a middle-aged woman.

And the spell of the past was on her, and she knew that she, who had loved in vain, could never hope to make this new love hers.

She heard the footstep stop at the door, which was imperceptibly open. Charles had seen his father, or heard his voice, and hesitated, not knowing what course to take.

And in that moment the impulse of renunciation came to the woman.

"Yes, if your check is good I will accept it," she said bravely, stretching out her hand to Hardwick's, to receive the paper.

"It is quite good," said the father complacently. "You agree, then, to leave town tonight in return for a hundred thousand dollars, and never to see my son again? Such an agreement is, of course, not valid in law, but—well, you would find it hard to break it, even if you wished to, which I do not believe."

"I shall leave tonight," said Della mechanically. And she heard the quick gasp behind the door, and then the sharp sounds of retreating footsteps.

"Who's that?" cried the father quickly.

"The janitor, I suppose," said Della, indifferently.

He rose. "Goodbye, then," he said with quiet triumph. "I am glad we settled that so sensibly. And if ever I can be at your service—"

He was gone, and Della seized the check and tore it wildly into a hundred pieces. Then, with flushed cheeks and tearful eyes, she began to pack.

BRIEF FOR OSAGE ORANGE

Many Uses That Are Made of a Common and Deservedly Popular American Plant.

A Missouri correspondent of the Youth's Companion comes loyally to the defense of the Osage orange, which we permitted ourselves to speak of as a wood that has no particular value beyond its use as a dye-stuff.

The Osage orange, he says, is a favorite hedge plant in the middle west, because it grows very quickly, endures close trimming, and forms a tough, efficient barrier, when used for fencing in or out of the ground it is remarkably durable, and Osage fence posts sell at high prices. Farther south than Missouri it grows tall enough to be used for telegraph and telephone poles.

In the extreme south where in the vernacular it is known as "bow dock" (apparently a contraction of bois d'arc) it is much used in the manufacture of cart and wagon wheels. The wood is tough and hard, and it contracts and expands very little when exposed to the extremes of flood or drought.

As a fuel Osage wood has few equals, and live stock often eat its fruit, the hedge orange or hedge apple.

Planted in groves, the tree grows rapidly and appears to be absolutely free from disease. The heart wood, a brilliant yellow color, is beautiful both in color and grain; used for interior finish, it will take a high polish. The characteristics that make its enemies abuse the Osage are the very qualities that recommend it to its friends. The seasoned wood is so hard that you can hardly drive a nail or a fence staple into it. The dense mass of tough branches and needle-pointed thorns make a fine fence, but they irritate the men who must attack a neglected, overgrown hedge. The very sturdiness and hardness that enable the Osage orange hedge to endure rough treatment and to hold its own against the assaults of live stock are likely to annoy the man who wishes to change his fence lines and must subdue a string of hedge to do so.

Cut Out Preliminaries.

Life will be longer if we use time better. Most of us could live longer in an hour than we do—actually have more time for things worth while in each hour than we do have. The way to do this is to stop wasting time—the time of ourselves and of others. And one of the best ways of saving time is to let unnecessary words go. In a recent conference of the workers of an office, when methods of improving the work were under consideration, and especially the matter of how to get through each day with the large amount of work that the new day brings, it was suggested that in conferring with one another much time could be saved by saying things in the fewest possible words instead of in the fullest possible way. This sound advice was given:

"Do not lead up to the matter in hand, or give a preliminary explanation. Do not 'come to the point,' but begin with the point." While of course we are always to avoid curtness in our speech, most of us say too much rather than too little. Most of us can do more and help others to do more, by saying less.

In Woman's Realm

Two Modish Coats of Checked Serge and Tan-Covert Cloth, Cravenette, Which Are Among the Best of the Season's Offerings—Simple but Extremely Effective Party Frock That Will Appeal to the Small Maid.

Two coats, made to brave the spiteful return of the north wind in May and the showers from spring skies, are shown in the picture given here. They are of checked serge and tan covert cloth, cravenette, and therefore not hurt by dampness. Their style is excellent and distinctive.

There have been so many checked coats in the season's showings that it would seem almost impossible for anything new and also attractive to make its appearance among them. But the model presented, while cut on familiar

that the body of the frock is of cotton net and is merely a full slip set on to a narrow round yoke of lace and reaching nearly to the knees. Three scant ruffles of lace are set about the bottom of this slip, and it is shirred in about the hips with three shirings set close together. This shirring shapes the slip into a long waist and short skirt. The sleeves are merely puffs of net edged with a double frill of net.

Over this slip of net a short overdress is worn. It is made of two lengths of yard-wide taffeta cut with



MADE TO BRAVE ALL WEATHERS.

and well-lined lines, shows a finish entirely novel. All its edges are finished with a piping of white and outlined with narrow flat silk braid, making the sharp and snappy contrast of black and white in a conservative fashion. It has a "chin-chin" collar. The short coat of covert cloth is trimmed with plain broadcloth is frankly a model for all-round wear, and does not commit itself to any sort of special occasion. It is pictured worn with an afternoon frock of taffeta.

narrow straps over the shoulder and scalloped about the bottom. The scallops are bound with a narrow binding of taffeta made from strips cut on the bias. The silk is shirred over a cord about the neck, and the arm's eye and shoulder straps are bound like the scallops. The fullness of the silk is drawn in about the hips with two shirings over cable cord, forming a sprightly flounce below. The overdress slips on over the head. As pictured, it is made of light blue shiny taffeta with considerable stiffness.



PARTY FROCK FOR THE SMALL MAID.

Here is a party frock for the little maid from about eight years up to twelve years old that will delight her and please her mother as well. It seems hardly worth while to describe the method of making it, because it is so clearly set forth in the picture. But for the benefit of the inexperienced who may be encouraged to undertake it, it may be mentioned

The frock is worn over a petticoat or slip of fine lawn edged with ruffles trimmed with narrow lingerie lace. It is made as long as the frock, so that there is a glimpse of these lace ruffles under those on the net dress.

Julie Bottomley

Black Is Popular.

Black is popular this spring, and there are many frocks of black taffeta, very chic with their ruffled lines, and their trim little bodices fitted in to the figure with feathered seams. Most of the silk frocks have sleeves of Georgette crepe or chiffon, and sometimes the filmy material forms a large part of the skirt. The all-black frock is smarter just now than one brightened with a touch of color or relieved with white, and when well conceived is chic and dashing, in a season when fawns and grays are seen everywhere. Navy blue is also a pronounced favorite, and many are the combinations of blue taffeta with voile, georgette crepe, chiffon and figured silk.

Kid as Trimming. Kid is used as a trimming in many of the new spring clothes. It is fashioned into very smart collars and cuffs and straps of it are used on skirts and coats. There are kid flowers, too, for trimming straw hats.

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

In a communication to the Baltimore News, W. H. Holtzclaw, principal of the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute, Utica, Miss., writes:

I have read your editorial of November 15, entitled, "Booker T. Washington's Field." I have found it very interesting, but there are some points in it which I feel ought to be amplified, to say the least. It is for this reason that I venture to write you this letter.

For instance, you make a comparison between the Northern Negro and the Southern Negro, and you state that the southern Negro's progress in 50 years has not been relatively commensurate with that of the Northern Negro during the half century of his freedom. You were kind enough, however, to give some very valuable reasons for this. The facts which I have at my command, however, and which can be had from the United States census, convince me that taking everything under consideration, the Southern Negro's progress during the past 50 years has far surpassed that of even the Connecticut Negro of whom you speak. We ought not to overlook the fact that the Southern Negro is making progress under tremendous difficulties—among them is the matter of education. The Connecticut Negro has paid, on the education of each of his children, out of public funds, for any given year, more than 15 times as much as we Negroes of the far South receive per capita.

Besides, he has educational facilities. For 50 years the Negroes have had here in the South the poorest kind of opportunities to educate themselves—school terms being from three to five months in length, and the cotton fields taking up the remainder of the time of our children. Besides, when they do attend school, the facilities are often so poor that it is almost equal to no school at all. It requires a boy 26 years to complete a common school course under the circumstances. There is often no more than the wreck of a log cabin with no heating apparatus, and but the poorest improvised blackboards, and little or no protection from the elements.

The teacher presiding over such a school is often paid as low as \$10 a month (that is the case in my own county) for five months, and out of which she has to pay not less than \$7 a month for board. If this sounds extravagant, I have only to invite your attention to the latest annual report of the superintendent of education of this state and Louisiana. It cannot be expected under such conditions that the Negroes will make satisfactory progress.

But this is not the worst. There are, according to the United States census, about 2,000,000 Negro children in the South who cannot get into even the poor schools that I have just mentioned. That is to say 52 per cent of the Negro children of the South, according to the United States census, attend no school at all.

Methodists who sought to have colored bishops provided for work among the colored people failed to receive the sanction of the annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal church, the affirmative vote failing to reach the necessary two-thirds. Announcement of the total conference vote was made by Dr. Joseph H. Hingley, secretary of the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. The plan was known as the Mississippi proposition.

Representative L. C. Dyer of Missouri, gave the record of the colored soldiers in the wars of this country at a public meeting at the John Wesley A. M. E. Zion church, Fourteenth and Corcoran streets northwest, under the auspices of the National Memorial association, in commemoration of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia.

The association, which is a national one, is organized for the purpose of procuring a site for the erection of a monument in Washington in honor of the colored soldiers and sailors who fought in the wars of this country. Mr. Dyer said he would do all he could to further this movement by an appropriation of the congress, and pledged the support of the Spanish war veterans, of which he is commanding chief.

Representative H. Martin Williams, who was master of the ceremonies, made a short address, in which he stated that he was for peace, and that he hoped this country would never be in another war.

As a table delicacy the tile fish has established itself firmly under the exploitation of the bureau of fisheries, which undertook to bring its merits to public attention a short time ago. These fish are now marketed in great quantities and are to be found on sale in all the leading markets of the eastern part of the country, so that the government's efforts in introducing it have been eminently successful.

The Japanese have many curious superstitions about animals, the chief among which is their belief in the supernatural power of foxes. There are numerous shrines dedicated to foxes in Japan. The badger is another animal feared by the superstitions Japanese. It is believed to have power to annoy people and to be able to turn into a priest at will.

The Rev. W. H. Jernagin urged the organization of the forces of the churches throughout the country in support of the monument movement. Thomas L. Jones told of the achievements of the colored race.

Among the guests were the commander and staff, Department of the Potomac, G. A. R.; the president and staff, Department of the Potomac, W. R. C.; the Guy V. Henry Army and Navy Union, No. 3; the Spanish-American war veterans and officers of the National Guard of the district.

The anniversary was observed Monday also at Mount Calvary Colored Baptist mission, Twentieth and E streets northwest, under the auspices of the Butler Zouaves Veteran Relief association. Prof. Jesse Lawson was the principal speaker. He voiced the feeling of his race in the sentiment that "the United States of America is the only country we know and her cause is our cause and her flag is our flag, and here together we shall live and never once say die. This is our country, our home, our own, our native land!"—Washington Star.

Sudan grass yields from one to eight tons of cured hay an acre.

Goethe's Criticism. Our relations are far too artificial and complicated, our equipment and mode of life without their proper nurture, and our social intercourse is without proper love and good will. Every one is polished and courteous, but no one has the courage to be hearty and true.—Goethe.

Optimistic Thought. It was Rudolph of Hapsburg who said: "It is better to govern a country well than to enlarge its boundaries."

Even the Rich Can Afford Flats. Even persons of enormous wealth can afford flats, for they now run as high as \$20,000 a year; perfectly good places to rough it in during the hard-ship of wartime in winter when Mediterranean cruises must be sacrificed.—Jesse Lynch Williams, in Scribner's Magazine.

Appearances Deceptive. Beware, so long as you live, of judging men by their outward appearance.—La Fontaine.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. C. HELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute. (Copyright, 1914, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR MAY 21

THE CRIPPLE OF LYSTRA.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 14. GOLDEN TEXT—He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.—Isa. 40:29.

Make a list of the seven cities mentioned in this lesson and locate them on a map. Let seven pupils attack to the map a flag, or banner, to locate each one. The visit to Iconium occurred probably in the spring of A. D. 47 (Ramsey). Paul and Barnabas had a great triumph and a severe testing at Iconium, wrought a great victory of faith and became popular at Lystra, only to meet great tribulation. On their homeward journey they confirmed saints, set up rules and gave account of their labors to the home church of Antioch, from which they had started this first journey.

I. In Iconium (vv. 1-7). This was a Roman city of great antiquity and importance. The modern city Konia is an important Mohammedan and trade center. Tradition says Paul was imprisoned for being a magician and teaching a woman named Thekla not to marry. This woman endured great hardships and trials for the faith, finally becoming a nun at Seleucia and dying at the advanced age of ninety. From this tradition we get most of our ideas of Paul's appearance—small, bandy-legged, large eyed, shaggy eyebrows, long nose; full of grace with sometimes the face of a man and at others of an angel. This is tradition only, but is probably somewhat near the truth. Paul followed his usual first witnessing in the synagogue, witnessing to the entire population, Jew and Gentile, and dividing them effectively by his words about Jesus.

II. In Lystra (vv. 8-21). (1) Popularity (vv. 8-13). Their introduction here would seem propitious, healing the cripple and at once gaining the esteem of the people. Adoration and gratitude appeal to the human heart. Underneath the heathen idea that the gods "came down to us in the likeness of men," is the great and glorious truth of the incarnation (John 1:14; Phil. 2:6, 7). We should hesitate to condemn these men of Lystra too severely, for what American community is not open to condemnation in this regard? Too many Christians offer garlands (v. 13) at the feet of the men whom God has used to work his mighty works. It was common complaint that in the days of his greatest victories, men could not find Mr. Moody when a service was dismissed, or get into his quarters at the hotels; he would give no opportunity for self glorification. Paul and Barnabas had hard work to restrain these hero worshippers (v. 14), and to convince them who they were and how they had been enabled to accomplish such a wonderful miracle (v. 15). Paul was of "like stature" with them and would not accept worship as did the Caesars or Herod (12:22, 23). He exhorted the Lystrians to turn from "these vain things," i. e., such idol worship, unto the "living God" (see also I Cor. 8:4; I Thess. 1:9). Hitherto God had not miraculously interfered to turn men from their evil ways (v. 16), but left them to their own devices to show their inability to find their way back to him (see Acts 17:30; I Cor. 1:21). Yet God is not "without witnesses" (v. 17). The seasons and the natural laws point to God, yet men still remain blind and ungrateful. Thus by vehement exhortation they prevented this act of sacrilege. (2) Persecution (vv. 19, 20). The mob is ever fickle, (v. 18), but it did not turn them "unto the living God" (v. 15). Conversion is the simple turning from idols (I Thess. 1:9), a rational thing, but one contrary to the pride of men who desire to "do something" whereby they may merit or can demand their salvation. Even as Paul had difficulty to turn people aside from idols, so today it is hard to keep men and women from idolatry, not the gross or vulgar idols of heathenism, but the refined idols of culture, success, power, money and pleasure. To his difficulties Paul had the added persecution of the vindictive Iconians and those from Antioch (v. 19). God delivered him from this trial (I Cor. 11:25, 27). All loyal witnesses must expect persecution from the God-hating world (II Tim. 3:12; John 15:18-20). Some think that this was when Paul was "taught up into the third heaven" (II Cor. 12:2-4). His treatment did not stop his testimony, nor separate him from friends (vv. 20, 21).

III. The Return (vv. 22-28). "When they had preached the gospel to the city" (v. 21) literally "having evangelized the city," they started home confirming believers and appointing leaders in each center visited. They did not take the short cut of 160 miles to Paul's home in Tarsus, but they visited their new converts.

Symbolically the cripple of Lystra is a type of sin, (a) helpless, (b) born in that condition (Psa. 51:5), (c) had to be helped from without, by outside power (Rom. 5:6); (d) all could see the change (James 2:18). This miracle wrought (a) praise from the people, (b) protestation on the part of Paul and Barnabas, (c) persecution from the fickle and disappointed priests who incited the people. Persecution helped the proclamation of the gospel. Those who believed strengthened Paul by sharing his danger (v. 20) and because of this experience Paul "made many disciples" (v. 21 R. V.).

Christianity's Meaning. It is easier to conceive of a landscape without color, life without action, music without harmony, than it is to conceive of a Christianity as it was lived and taught by Christ and his disciples, which does not reach out for the redemption of all men.—James L. Earps.